

Chapter Five: Conclusion

Bringing It
All Together

Conclusion

Take an “all hazards” approach to disaster preparedness.

Prepare for All Emergencies

The Bay Area is prone to many types of disasters. The same preparedness measures work well for many different types of emergencies. Some key things you can do:

- ❖ Make copies of important personal/business documents and store them in a safe place.
- ❖ Identify an out of state contact person so family and friends can communicate with you during an emergency.
- ❖ Develop an individual/family/business emergency plan.
- ❖ Plan for a meeting place if you cannot meet at home.
- ❖ Discuss what children should do if at school.
- ❖ Coordinate with neighbors for pick-up if children attend the same school.
- ❖ Designate a surrogate parent for your children if you are not able to tend to them.
- ❖ Provide this information to your child’s school.
- ❖ Learn how to locate and shut-off (if necessary) power, water and gas.
- ❖ Stockpile emergency supplies for 3 to 7 days, including prescription medicines and a first aid kit.
- ❖ Know your community resources.
- ❖ Remain calm and follow the instructions of emergency services personnel.
- ❖ Listen for emergency information and bulletins. The emergency stations are:
 - KLIV 1590 AM
 - KCBS 740 AM
 - KGO 810 AM
 - SJPD 1340 AM

Volunteer to Help

A successful response to an emergency requires a great deal of help. Several volunteer groups have been pre-trained and are part of City emergency plans. Joining one of these organizations now increases your personal preparedness and your value to your community in emergencies. Some key organizations are:

- ❖ **San Jose *Prepared!*** is a Community Emergency Response Team program, which trains our city residents in emergency preparedness and response. Call 408-277-4598 for more information, or visit our website site at www.sanjoseca.gov/emergencyservices/sjprepared.
- ❖ Radio Amateur Civil Emergency Service (RACES) is an organization of ham radio operators providing vital communication links when normal systems are inoperative or overloaded. For more information contact the Office of Emergency Services at 408-277-4595 or visit the RACES website at www.sjraces.org.
- ❖ Santa Clara Valley Chapter of American Red Cross provides victims services including on call Disaster Action Teams (DAT) and emergency shelter teams. For more information call 408-577-1000 or visit them at their website, www.scv-redcross.org.
- ❖ Volunteer Center of Silicon Valley acts as a clearing house for spontaneous unaffiliated volunteers during a disaster or emergency. For more information call 408-247-1126 or visit their website at www.vcsv.us.

When a Disaster is Declared

- ❖ Document your losses as soon as possible. Take photographs of the damage for comparison against the ones you took as part of your household inventory.
- ❖ Don't throw away damaged property until you have had it inspected by a government inspector or insurance agent.
- ❖ Contact your insurance agent as soon as you have a sense of the damage to your property.